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CONF

a plurality of key data encrypted with a different password for each of a plurality of unit storage areas of said storage medium for protecting access to said unit storage areas; and

a plurality of data encrypted with the key data corresponding to said unit storage area of said storage medium for representing user entered information.

18. (Amended) An encoding method protecting data on a storage medium having a plurality of unit storage areas, comprising:

a step of generating different key data for each unit storage area of said storage medium, encrypting the key data with a password, and writing the encrypted key data to said storage medium; and

a step of encrypting the data with the key data corresponding to said unit storage area to which the data is to be written, and writing the encrypted data to said storage medium.

19. (Amended) A decoding of protected data on a storage medium having a plurality of unit storage areas, wherein different key data is used for each unit storage area and the different key data is encrypted with at least one password, comprising:

a step of reading the encrypted key data from said storage medium;

a step of decoding the encrypted key data with said at least one password; and